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今日北京

# BEIJING TODAY

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## ART'S NEW TOOLS: NEEDLES AND HERBAL MEDICINE?

### YOU'VE NEVER SEEN AVANT-GARDE ART LIKE HE LING'S **P.4**



北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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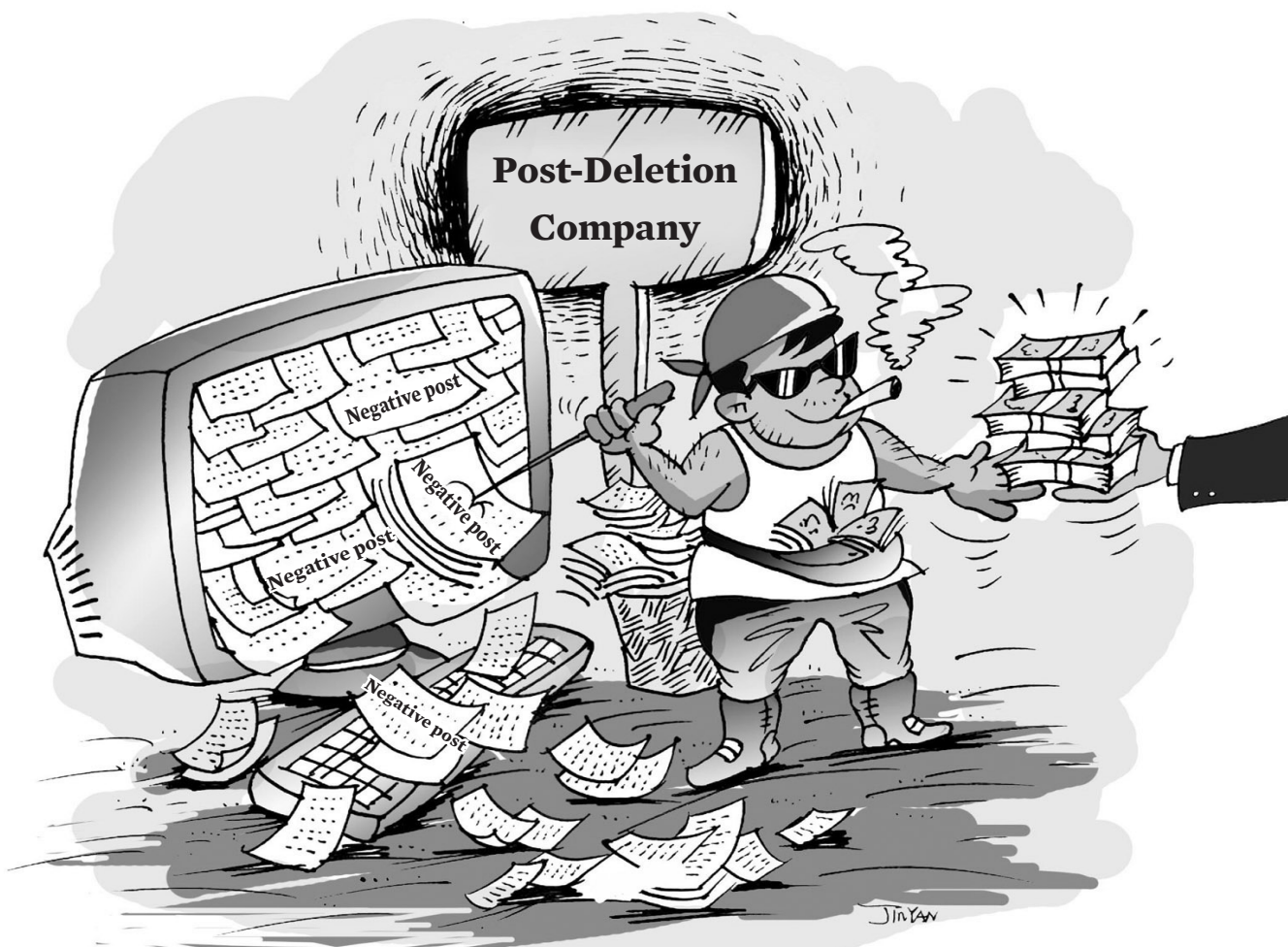
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# FEATURE STORY



Water Army posters hired by marketing firms play an indispensable role in vulgar marketing.

Photo by CFP

## PR Firms Play While Web Regulators are Away

BY YANG XIN

Chinese social networking sites have been swamped with discussion of the latest scandalous topic: "Escort for Travel." Purportedly the work of an 18-year-old woman, the posts call advertise job openings for "temporary boyfriends" and included photos and videos of the woman sleeping with random men on her trips to Nanjing, Wuxi and Suzhou.

Sites that carried the story basked in the traffic brought about by social media shares and angry comments lamenting the "moral deficiency of modern youth."

But as with much Chinese news, the story is much deeper than it appeared on the surface.

Within days, the certified Sina Weibo account Chuanmeidaguanha confirmed that the seemingly scandalous story was actually a viral social advertisement for Youjia, a new social networking app.

### Scratching the Surface

"It's not the first time a software maker chose to promote its app like this. The similar 'Backhoe Sex' episode came only two weeks before," said Shushu, a blogger in Nanjing.

According to the Backhoe Sex story, police near Shanghai's Putuo district received a call on October 13 from a man and a woman who had broken into a backhoe that was left at a construction site and ended up locked inside the cabin.



"Escort for Travel" turned out to be a PR stunt.

Photo by youqing8

Three days later, *The Paper* released an investigative report that proved the story to be false. According to the report, neither the Public Security Subbureau in Putuo nor the Shanghai Public Security Bureau had ever logged such a call.

This shock approach to app marketing can trace its roots back to earlier this year, when the front pages of many sites dedicated their real estate to "Anti-World Cup" slogans and photos of barely-clothed women and violent, drunken fans.

Following each report was a call to arms: "Support us by following us on Youjia."

### Vulgar Marketing Model

"Fake news like the Backhoe Sex story make good use of the public love of scandals. They are meticulously crafted to broadcast a product," said Jiang Lili, a reporter at CRI Online.

But the rapid spread of such soft advertising indicates a bigger problem: news websites are putting their traffic before the authenticity of their content, Qiuyi Net said in an editorial.

According to an editorial on Kankan News, some media outlets that passed along the Escort for Travel story had a signed agreement with Youjia. On Sina, the story was filed under "Sponsored Content," a section heading typically used for soft advertising.

The case of group purchase website 55tuan may be one of the most extreme examples.

55tuan cooperated with as many as three public relations firms to plant and publish fake news. In June 2011, the company spread fake news that it had received an investment of \$200 million from Goldman Sachs. It was also caught pruning negative comments and hiring paid commentators with the help of its public relations agency.

The long-suspected facts were leaked by a former employee of one of the public

relations agencies hired by 55tuan.

Kankan News said companies looking to market a product will assign their public relations specialists or contracted agencies to develop farcical or novel content engineered to appeal to the human psyche. Once the story is shaped, it is sent to cooperative media agencies for publication or broadcast.

But the real fuel that makes this approach possible is the paid commentators: the so-called "Water Army."

"We offer tailored propaganda and promotion plans that can give you considerable media exposure. All you need to do is send us your press release and tell us your budget," said Xiao Liu, a spokesman for an online marketing firm.

Ordinary promotion proposals cost about 15,000 yuan. "Bulletin boards and forums are popular and active, and those are the best places to strike a chord and encourage people to continue sharing the story on their own," Liu said.

More than half of the content on commercial websites and forums is manipulated by paid commentators, according to data from the Beijing Network News Supervision Center.

The industry has given rise to a parallel service that handles Q&A platforms and QQ groups. "We publicize your information and post positive comments on the major platforms. Presenting it from a third-party angle helps to sway more Internet readers," Liu said. "QQ group promotion is more like viral marketing. We post your soft advertisements on numbers of groups to meet your demand of exposure."

The Water Army has invaded Weibo as well. "Our Weibo promotions focus on three aspects: fans, blog articles and event marketing hype. The last is the one most requested by our clients," Liu said.

"We never ask about the authenticity or legality of our assignments. We will write anything as long as we get paid," said a Water Army poster who refused to be named.

### Crackdown on the Way

On October 28, the State Internet Information Office published an announcement demanding that Youjia rectify its marketing and app store giants remove it from their catalogs. A few of the company leaders and public relations agencies are being investigated.

"The Internet is not a lawless playground. All Internet companies must abide by state laws and regulations. We will have a nationwide audit of instant messaging clients and apps soon," said a spokesperson for the State Internet Information Office.

Lu Wei, director of the State Internet Information Office, said the office is formulating administrative measures designed to rein in the marketing of mobile app developers.

But in academic circles, the argument appears to be over the definition of vulgar marketing. "Chinese legislation about Internet hype is far behind, even with the most recent revision," said Wang Bin, an associate professor at the Nankai University School of Law. ■



# MUSIC

## MINT EFFECT SAYS DAY JOBS ESSENTIAL TO INDIE SPIRIT

BY DIAO DIAO



Diao Qian



Abu



Yu Tong



Zhang Songsong

**W**hile most bands chase after exaggerated effects and loud sounds, Mint Effect is notable in its restraint.

"We just try to write something that's comfortable and sounds good. You can't always do that with complicated melodies," says Zhang Songsong, the band's leader and founder. "It doesn't take a huge vocal range or loud screams to attract an audience."

The four-member band's reserved approach to songwriting and performance grows out of Zhang's own traits. While most bandleaders are eager to be the center of attention, Zhang is a quiet man who focuses on meaning more than words.

"The power of rock is its ability to encourage and inspire. For an indie band, that's even more important," Zhang says.

Hence the name, Zhang says mint has a fresh scent and its green hue inspires warmth and positivity. The band aims to emulate that effect with its songs.

Like most indie band members, Zhang leads two lives. By day he's a project manager for a local electronics company. By night he reflects on moments in his day to craft new songs for the group.

But that's less due to practical necessity than musical necessity. Mint Effect's members see day jobs as essential for composition process.

The present Mint Effect began in 2013 when drummer Abu joined the group. Earlier this year, guitarist Diao Qian and bassist Yu Tong joined up. The young band seems united in its realism.

Yu, an art designer at a Beijing game company, fell in love with music when his father bought him a guitar. Like many hobbyists, Yu fears his passion for the guitar will fade if music became his job rather than his outlet.

Diao works as a director and advertising producer. "There are different kinds of music, but nothing clearly dividable into independent or mainstream," he says. "Some people



play from their heart and others focus on technical mastery."

For Diao, music is to work as writing is to paper. "I know it's an awkward metaphor, but what I mean is the two can't be separated," he says.

"When you create something and then lose it, that's when you know you are grown up," Diao says. His primary musical inspiration is Wang Luobin, the western king of music. Wang's legendary life has kept his musical legacy from fading. A half-year spent in the desert without music made Diao realize how essential it is to his life.

Drummer Abu is both the rhythm and the soul of the band. As a senior in college, Abu's parents forced her to give up her dream of playing professionally to stay in school. "My parents were really mad at me. I ended up having to compromise and do both. It's tiring, but I know it's the best choice for my future," she says.

Individual experience is a big part of Mint Effect's music. During composing sessions, they often wander far off topic and only come back to music once they start arguing.

The band recommends "All That Belongs to Us" as its most "honest" song.

The band is currently working on recording its next album slated for release next year. ■

☞ [site.douban.com/bohe/](http://site.douban.com/bohe/)

## LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

*Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!*

### Zhang Zhi@ Mako Live

Folk musician Zhang Zhi was born in Xinjiang and lives in Lijiang, Yunnan province. In the past, Zhang used to compose psychedelic rock. Zhang combines foreign genres with the modern folk music of the Uyghur and Kazakh people. His aptitude at fusing musical styles from different regions has won him some recognition at the Chinese music awards.

🕒 November 8, 8:30-10:30 pm  
📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District  
💰 80 yuan

### Supper VC@ YugongYishan

With 13 years of entertainment experience, Supper VC is no stranger to the stage. But this year marks the group's first live house tour. The final concert will be back in Beijing on November 8, and fans are preparing to gather at Yugong Yishan for a celebratory bash.

🕒 November 8, 9-11:30 pm  
📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng  
💰 80 yuan presale, 100 at door



### Wang Xiaoyang @ Lanxi Bar

Wang Xiaoyang, known as Little Panda, is a folk singer and professional tourist. He also paints. His music sounds comfortable and warm, and his lyrics are rich with nostalgia. Fans say his songs are pictures that tell stories from the heart.

🕒 November 8, 9-11:30 pm  
📍 183 Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng  
💰 50 yuan presale, 60 at door

### Shen Shengzhe @ Mao Livehouse

In early 2014, singer, music producer and project manager Shen Shengzhe was a recluse who despised speaking and any form of social communication. He threw himself into working behind the scenes. Now he is stepping out to hold his own performance, "After All I'm Shy."

🕒 November 9, 8:30 pm  
📍 111 Guloudong Dajie, Dongcheng  
💰 80 yuan presale, 100 at door



Photos by Mint Effect





# ARTISTS



Fei Niao Jing E Que

## Fantastic Creatures in the Mirror of Reality

BY LYNNE WANG

**W**hile most painters create their art using pen or brush, the avant-garde artist He Ling uses medical syringes to bring his wild imaginations to life.

At his recent exhibition in Songzhuang Art District, the young artist displayed a series of mutant birds and beasts he created by injecting acrylic paints and dyes made from Chinese herbs into his canvas. The process resembles traditional embroidery in its delicacy.

Although He is a graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, it's not hard for the layperson to understand his unique artistic language. The combination of biological impossibilities with dreamy or nostalgic backgrounds creates an effect that is both terribly absurd and unusually familiar.

"Our ancestors and folk artisans expressed their understanding of the world – or their lack of understanding – using their imaginations. Just look at the descriptions of some 'species' in the *Shanhaijing*," a Qin Dynasty tome of myth, He said.

"Modern people are rigid. They think and behave according to their instructed rules and patterns. They have created a society that is spiritually divorced from natural inspiration," he said.

Through seemingly absurd images the young artist hopes to make viewers reflect on reality. In his work *Yi Qin Tu*, strange creatures such as bird-headed turtles, elephant-headed chickens and a combination of butter-

flies and bees call on viewers to consider pollution's role in genetic mutation.

Another feature of He's work is the comparison between human nature and animal instinct. *Tong Wei Hu Sheng* and *Tong Wei Ma Qun* depict the same theme – brutal cannibalism in animal world – as well as more universal situations in human society.

**“**Modern people are rigid. They have created a society that is spiritually divorced from natural inspiration.**”**

"It is quite interesting to map human experiences onto the animals. Very often, when you compare a certain activity between human and animals, the former is much absurd than the latter," said Yang Wei, a local art critic.

He's unique style comes more from experience than whimsy, said Duan Jun, vice president of White Box Gallery. Childhood images of mysterious and strange plants and animals stimulated He's artistic impulse: the syringe enabled him to explore it.

He was born in 1981 in the remote mountains of Hunan province to three generations of village doctors. He spent most of his childhood in the family's backyard clinic. Herbal medicine and old syringes were his toys.

"The pharmacy contained towering drawers full of exotic plants and other materials. Opening them was like

being a little explorer. Some had dried leaves or colorful fruits. Some had roots or animal horns. Others were full of dead insects," He said.

"It was a point of pride for me that I could find any medicine using its shape, color or smell when my mother assigned me to fetch something for a patient," he said.

Apart from the playground of the pharmacy, various medical instruments were also He's toys. Syringes were his favorite.

His sensitive blending of the natural and imaginary world has led *China Culture Daily* to term He's avant-garde style "magical realism."

But as a maverick and young artist, He tends to resist genre classification. "Magical realism is a Latin American genre that had its heyday in the 1950s. Its historical context and expressive intent have no relationship with my work," He said.

"I am more concerned about whether my art can resonate with viewers than figuring out what I should label it," he said.

In addition to his needle paintings, He has also experimented with using sculpture, performance and installation to express ideas and ask questions. He said he is looking for mediums that will allow him more chances for interaction rather than limiting himself to personal expression. ■

weibo.com/helingart



He Ling at work



Yi Qin Tu



Ying Quan

Photos by He Ling





# CINEMA



## Ordinary Pig Inspires Viewers in New Cartoon

BY DIAO DIAO

**W**hile most cartoons are for children, the *McDull* series is an exception. The innocent show has touched parents with its tale of a pig with a quite noticeable birthmark as he begins his adventures in kindergarten.

*McDull: Me and My Mom*, the fifth episode in the series, debuted on October 1.

Neither handsome nor clever – and often a little silly – McDull is nevertheless surrounded by friends.

He and his mom are not rich, but they lead a happy and interesting life in their small Hong Kong home. As a pig, McDull loves eating meat, sleeping and all the other destructive habits to which children are given.

Although he has similar characteristics to most children, McDull experiences more disappointment. Many

viewers empathize with the character as he tries to reconcile his imperfect life with his innocent mind and kind heart.

The first episode tells the story of McDull's birth to his single mother. Although she pins her hopes on her only son, McDull is nothing but ordinary. In spite of his limited ability, McDull dreams of winning a gold medal in Olympic Games and travelling to Maldives, but all he can see is the view out of his working class window.

The second episode, *Prince de la Bun*, introduces McDull's father. The third, *Mai Dou Wu Dang*, tells the story of McDull and his mom as they head north to Euhuan to study cooking and kung fu. While McDull misses his TV and snacks at home and often cries at night, he still studies hard.

The fourth episode, *The Pork of*

*Mu*, is about McDull and his classmates' effort to save their kindergarten by forming a chorus and performing around the country to raise money.

In the latest installment, McDull's mom is sent to the hospital when she succumbs to exhaustion. McDull is taken care of by his uncle, who disappears right after his mom leaves the hospital. Faced with feelings of insecurity after seeing his mom sick, the young pig goes out to earn a living on his own.

Most viewers said that the film seems more geared to adults. Many cried in the theater when McDull's mother told her son, "I love you even if the world hates you, and I believe you even if the world betrays you."

Although a little late for Mother's Day, the film is a celebration of the unconditional love that mothers have for their children. ■

CFP Photos



Photo by Douban.com

## Web Writer Offers Her Own 'Chicken Soup'

BY DIAO DIAO

**T**he new healing book *Writing the Future* of Chinese writer Zhao Xing, known by the pseudonym Maverick Cat on Douban.com, has been shared more than 9 million times and recommended by numerous other writers since its release this August.

Zhao is one of the most popular bloggers on the Weibo platform. She is famous for her sharp comments and positive and fresh writing style. Most readers say they feel encouraged after reading her articles.

Gu Dian, a famous life coach, described Zhao as "the kind of stupid girl" who believes in the future even when she only ever encounters hardship. Gu said Zhao's words are warm but sometimes sharp, and

funny but positive.

Wang Juan, a famous writer and psychologist known online as Kaolaxiaowu, said Zhao is casual and out-going, but also tenacious and determined to do her best in every field.

Zhao says that many people complain about their life, unsatisfying jobs and lack of passion. However, few have the courage to leave their comfort zone and change their situation.

Zhao made a change in her own life. She created her own job and writes in her spare time. She also studied carpentry and is taking a postgraduate course in child psychology. She is always ready to change as

long as it means living without regrets.

As well as the theme of "change," the book also focuses on building self-confidence, managing emotions and remaining optimistic and independent.

As well as collecting the stories of people Zhao encountered on her trip to Taiwan, the most attractive part of the book is the way Zhao seems to know exactly what readers need. Unlike other self help books, Zhao's supplements its theory with real suggestions about how to solve problems.

Compared with dry words advocating positive energy and encouragement, Zhao's book is will prove far more valuable to readers seeking inspiration in their lives. ■



# A LOCAL OUTINGS



Trolleys of the 1920s once again run along Chang'an Avenue past Tiananmen Square.

CFP Photos

## Journey Through Time on Beijing's Trolleys

BY YANG XIN

Twelve trolley cars were put into service for the first time in 40 years on September 28. Their routes have been crafted to help urban residents and tourists cart around the downtown area. This week, we explore the history of Beijing's trolley cars and help you plan a sightseeing trip through the city center.

### Trolley History

The first trolleys were introduced to Beijing in 1924 and connected Qianmen in the city center with Xizhimen on the central west side. In the era of Old Beijing, the cars were known as "dangdang che" for the bells they would ring to alert passengers of oncoming cars.

The trolleys fell into disuse in the 1960s with the arrival of modern transportation. When the first two cars returned to the renovated Qianmen Street in 2009, crowds of people came out of sheer curiosity.

The newest 12 cars are drawing even more attention. With ticket prices slashed from 20 yuan to 10 yuan, the new trolleys can be both a sightseeing car and a transportation tool connecting Yongdingmen on Second Ring Road to Tiananmen Square in the city center.

The new trolleys were designed and produced based on old photographs, with both interiors and exteriors crafted to match. Each can accommodate up to 28 passengers.

### Morning: Temple of Agriculture

This is a worthwhile stop for anyone interested in the sacrificial rituals of imperial China. Built in the 15th century, the Temple of Agriculture was used by Ming and Qing

emperors to perform ritual sacrifice.

As an imperial altar dedicated to Shen Nong, one of the mythical early emperors who gave ancient China farming implements and a knowledge of crops, the Temple of Agriculture played a symbolic role in ensuring good weather, sufficient rain and abundant harvest.

Aside from its historical use, the Temple of Agriculture is a great sample of the period's architecture. The Ancient Architecture Museum inside demonstrates the architectural achievements of ancient China.

⌚ 8:30 am-7:00 pm

💎 Free

### Lunch: Huguang Guildhall

Opened in 1807, the Huguang Guildhall is Beijing's last guildhall with a theatrical stage. Today, it is a popular destination for fans of classical drama or historic architecture.

Located a short distance from the Temple of Agriculture, it is a great spot for lunch.

The Huguang Guildhall specializes in the cuisines of Hubei and Hunan. Fish in sour soup and hot noodles with sesame paste are two most recommended dishes.

Jingtianhong Restaurant is located on the southern side of Huguang Guildhall. As the only seller of authentic Tianjin fried cakes and dough twists it has very long lines. Prices have not changed, and fried cakes still cost 2 yuan. Resist the urge to stock up: the cakes turn cold or sour within hours.

### Afternoon: Taiwan Cultural Street

Qianmen Street is the 17th stop on the trolley route and a must-go location on any Beijing tour. With a history spanning more than five centuries, Qianmen Street was the first commercial district in the capital. It is currently home to many dealers of fine antiques.

Follow the connecting Dajiang Hutong to a red archway bearing the name "Taiwan Cultural and Commercial Street." The path leads to the Taiwan Aesthetics Life House, a store with simple decor and delicate products designed for home life.

Deyi Diancang is another antique store next to the life house. Most of its works are imitations of pieces collected in the Taipei National Palace Museum.

### Dinner: Street Food by Qianmen

There are a number of time-honored restaurants on Qianmen Street. But for people seeking a more memorable experience, street food is a better choice.

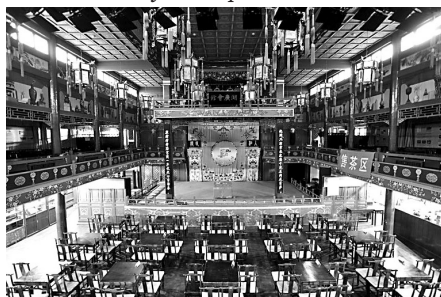
Menkuang Hutong is one of the last bastions of Old Beijing street food and worth a look if you want to see forgotten classics.

Luzhu Huoshao in the hutong is highly recommended. The tiny storefront usually has long lines of older residents waiting for a chance to recapture the taste and smell of childhood.

Traditionally, native Beijingers eat crunchy sheep stomach in autumn to guard against the cold. Many restaurants are famous for their sheep stomachs, called baodu. Among the most popular is Baodufeng, a time-honored brand located in the Menkuang Hutong and favored by every household a century ago. ■



Reenactment of the imperial era's ritual sacrifice



Huguang Guildhall



Imperial storehouse



# Q CLASSIFIEDS

## SPORT



### 2014 IYT Bareboat Skipper Course Begins!

International Yacht Training is an internationally accredited global leader in yacht training, maritime certification, safety and sail training. The company operates more boating courses with more schools, in more countries and in more languages than any other boating organization in the world.

IYT Bareboat Certificates are accepted by all major yacht charter companies and many insurance companies offer discounted premiums to those who hold the paper.

An IYT International Bareboat Skipper Course lasts 14 days with seven days of theory and seven days of practical training.

The course is structured towards those sailors with limited big boat experience, so everyone is eligible. On completion of the course, participants will have logged 200 nautical miles and be able to sail independently.

There will be both a practical course and a theory course. After 14 days of training and successfully passing the exam you can get the IYT International bareboat skipper certificate, ICC certificate, VHF certificate and small motorboat certificate.

- ⌚ 9 am - 6 pm, November 8 to 14
- 💰 25,000 yuan
- ☎ 400 180 0107
- ✉ sailing@beijingsailing.com

## ART

### Post - Photography

Chen Shaoxiong, Thijsgroot Wassink, Ruben Lundgren, Yan Lei and Zhang Xiao share a common skill in adapting the camera lens for non-traditional purposes. Their photographs are not about photography. Instead, the popular press, contemporary material and daily life inspire their works.

The artists rely on photography to edit a new reality: one starker, multi-layered and more in keeping with what we see around us. Each artist is compelled to depict the real world of street images - less idealized, less formulaic, less fashionable and less curated. Art that avoids the seductive power of a happy ending.

These are not works of beauty, of pretty surfaces or of blind optimism. These are works by keen observers of daily life who happen to know how to handle a camera. The equipment finds its use as a tool for life recording rather than for producing art.

- ⌚ 10 am - 6 pm, November 11
- ➡ Pekin Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 5127 3220
- 🌐 pekinfinearts.com

## MUSIC



### Movie Concert: The Sinophile's Guide to France

This early November, music and film will mingle at Meridian Space. Artists and bands from abroad will be on site to perform live to silent films from Japan, France, Italy and China.

Curious minds can get a crash course in digital composing, Japanese koto and song writing. It's a one-of-a-kind interactive performance that blends music and dance.

SLOTH is a young trio of seasoned musicians bound by a love of jazz, poetry and improvisation: Laura Perrudin (harp, vocals), Florent Briqué (trumpet, effects) and Eric Perez (drums, vocals). Groovy and delicate, their music often accompanies the poetry of French and English writers.

- ⌚ 9-11 pm, November 8
- ➡ Meridian Space, Building 8, C&C Park, 77 Meishuguan Hou Jie, Chaoyang
- 🌐 meridian-online.com/minifest-sloth-the-sinophiles-guide-to-france/?



### Indie Pop Band Supper Moment Tours China

Supper Moment is the most popular new indie pop band from Hong Kong. Lead singer Sunny, guitarist Ah Kai, bassist CK and drummer Ah Tat drew legions of fans earlier this year at their In a Changing World concert.

Founded in 2006, the band won mainland stardom at the Shenzhen Zebra Music Festival 2013 and Shenzhen Midi Music Festival 2014. Supper Moment has released three EPs - *Wait*, *The Journey* (2010), *Young Boy Out Town* (2012) - and two albums: *Heart Beats Again* (2011) and *In a Changing World* (2014).

2014 marks Supper Moment's first tour of the Chinese mainland with stops in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai.

- ⌚ 8:30-11 pm, November 16
- ➡ Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
- ☎ (010) 6404 2711
- 💰 80 yuan (door); 60 yuan (presale)
- ✉ info@yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yugongyishan.com

## DINING



### 2014 Hilton Beijing Food & Wine Experience

The Hilton Beijing will hold its 17th annual Food & Wine Experience on November 15. As usual, the Food & Wine Experience will feature numerous local and international wines complemented by delicacies from all over the world. Visitors this year will also find a few new twists to what is the longest-running event of its kind in the city, including live music performances, a wider selection of domestic wine, a play area and an entry price starting from 88 yuan for food and wine lovers.

The annual Hilton Beijing's Food & Wine Experience is the most talked about event in town. It was already considered as the capital's finest wine event in its founding year and it has been growing stronger ever since.

- ⌚ 11 am - 7 pm, November 15
- ➡ Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang
- 💰 88 yuan (11 am-noon); 148 yuan (after noon); 228 yuan (11 am-noon with lunch); 268 yuan (after noon with dinner)
- ☎ (010) 5865 5000
- 🌐 www1.hilton.com/en\_US/hi/hotel/BJSHTW-Hilton-Beijing-hotel/index.do



### Chi Fan for Charity

Chi Fan for Charity (CFFC) is Beijing's premiere charity dining event. The innovative model takes the standard concept of a large gala charity dinner and throws it out the window!

Time's running out for you to book your slot in the culinary event of the season. More than 50 of the capital's best restaurants host tables and 100 percent of the proceeds go to charity.

As of October 20, 24 of the 54 tables for tomorrow night are booked and going fast. If you don't get it in gear soon you're going to find yourself ordering take out

for a miserable evening of binge-watching *The Walking Dead* instead of socializing with the city's elite.

Proceeds go directly to the United Foundation for China's Health, which provides access to innovative healthcare for vulnerable populations in China, and the Morning Tears foundation, which cares for children who are effectively orphaned when their parents get locked up.

- ⌚ 6-11 pm, November 8
- 💰 600 yuan and up, varies by venue
- 🌐 chifanforcharity.org/beijing/

## STAGE



### Yang Liping: Impressions of Yunnan

Yang Liping is the director, choreographer and star of a performance art show called "Dynamic Yunnan" that has drawn sellout crowds all over the country. She toured Europe and the US in 2005. Between 2004 and 2008, Yang directed and choreographed the trilogy *Dynamic Yunnan*, *Echoes of Shangri-la* and *Tibetan Myth*.

In 2004, *Dynamic Yunnan* won five major awards at the National Lotus Awards, including the Gold Award for Dance Spectacular, Best Choreography and Best Female Performer. To create the exotic song and dance spectacular, Yang spent years travelling to remote villages of the 26 ethnic minority tribes in Yunnan province. She selected and cooperated with more than 60 villagers who demonstrated a natural gift for song and dance.

- ⌚ 7:30 pm-midnight, November 12 to 16
- ➡ National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng
- 💰 160-880 yuan
- ☎ (010) 6655 0000
- 🌐 en.damai.cn/event/tickets\_69496/

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- 📠 (010) 6590 2525
- ✉ ads@beijingtoday.com.cn





# WINTER IS HERE!



## Lamb Soup for Lidong

BY DIAO DIAO

**T**he Chinese traditional calendar divides the year into 12 months and names 24 critical days to indicate the start and end of specific periods. The 19th of these, Lidong, falls on November 7 this year.

Lidong marks the arrival of winter and is observed by eating certain foods. While most people know that Lidong is a day for jiaozi, in the Beijing tradition it is also a day for lamb or mutton soup.

The Annals of the Song Dynasty say that when the founding emperor Zhao Kuangyin was still a starving wanderer, he once asked a man for a bowl of lamb soup and shaobing,

a layered biscuit. As the bread softened in the broth, Zhao felt warm and hopeful.

Years later, when Zhao had become emperor, he still missed the taste of that lamb soup even as he enjoyed the delicacies of the palace. When his chefs failed to capture the flavor, Zhao personally led a search for the cook who had been so charitable to him in the past.

There are many stories about lamb soup in Chinese history, and every province has its own preferences for preparation. Shandong is famous for being picky about the origin of its soup lambs while Henan chefs eschew

the use of any seasonings. Beijing's version adds some sauces such as jiangdoufu and jiucaihua.

Lamb soup is bright and milky white with a color created from long boiling. While oily, lamb soup does not leave a greasy feeling on your teeth.

Even people who dislike the strong taste of lamb or mutton tend to enjoy the soup, which is usually made of fine cuts of meat and stewed bones. And by traditional reckoning, Chinese medicine classifies lamb as a "hot" element that can get your body in shape for the cold weather. ■



CPF Photos



## Beiping Famous for Lamb Soup

BY DIAO DIAO

**B**eiping is the capital's most famous restaurant for lamb soup. In addition to being recognized as the one of the oldest, the restaurant provides free parking and snacks.

The small restaurant's current incarnation has been open for more than 10 years. In spite of its Sanlitun location, it has stayed true to its working class roots and offers traditional Beijing flavor.

The menu is regrettably small, but most visitors come for the lamb soup. Soups can be ordered with different meatcuts or organs according to personal preference.

Beiping makes a point of not using MSG or other flavor-enhancing additives. Big bowls cost 16 yuan and small bowls 14 yuan.

It's 35 yuan if you want to try Beiping's "secret recipe" lamb soup. While expensive, most customers say it is worth the price. Especially when enjoyed with the restaurant's freshly made shaobing. The shaobing are served hot and fresh with crispy outer layers and a generous amount of sesame seeds.

Common cold dishes are also available. All are priced less than 10 yuan. ■

### Beiping Lamb Soup

14 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District  
(010) 6585 7336

## MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

## Learn to Make Lamb Soup at Home

BY DIAO DIAO

**W**hile Beijing has many famous lamb soup shops, it's not a difficult dish to make at home. Many Beijing families make large pots and store them in the fridge to eat throughout the week.

For a Beijing style lamb soup, add turnips. The only trick is to prepare the meat correctly to minimize its strong smell.

### Ingredients:

- ☐ 500g mutton
- ☐ 300g sliced turnips
- ☐ 50g ginger
- ☐ 20g sliced green onions
- ☐ 20g sliced garlic
- ☐ coriander



Lamb soup with turnips Photo by jnyl.org.cn

- ☐ aniseed
- ☐ prickly ash
- ☐ cinnamon
- ☐ wine
- ☐ salt
- ☐ pepper powder

### The Steps:

1. Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil. Add the wine and ginger. Quickly add the mutton. Cooking the meat together with alcohol and ginger helps to dispel its smell.
2. Slice the turnips. Boil them in water to soften.
3. Boil water in a pressure cooker and add the cooked mutton, prickly ash, aniseed, cinnamon, ginger and garlic. Close the lid and heat over a high flame. When the valve begins to whistle, reduce to a small flame and add the sliced turnips.
4. Boil for 30 minutes.
5. Ladle into a serving bowl and garnish with chopped green onion, coriander and salt. Sesame oil can be added according to personal preference.



Beiping lamb soup and shaobing  
Photos by Dianping.com